

POLICY AND OPERATIONS (OPERATING EXPENSES)

PURPOSE OF THE APPROPRIATION

Policy and Operations is an annual appropriation that supports Governmentwide policy functions and the central planning, direction, and management of agency programs. It is a successor to “Operating Expenses” and former individual appropriations for each GSA component. Funds are available only during the year for which they are appropriated.

AUTHORITY FOR THE PROGRAM

The functions of the appropriation are generally authorized by the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as amended (40 U.S.C. 471 et seq.).

HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM

Except during its first two years (see Operating Expenses, GSA (expired)), GSA had individual operating expense appropriations for each of its major components. Over time, these accounts became progressively smaller as functions related to business lines were transferred to revolving funds for full cost recovery as part of the pricing structure for goods and services.

In FY 1995, Congress enacted a single appropriation for “Operating Expenses” of GSA. It combined former individual operating expense appropriations for each of GSA’s Services, and the former General Management and Administration appropriation.

Under the Operations part of the account, FY 1995 also marked the beginning of a three-year phased transition of FSS activities to reimbursable funding under the General Supply Fund.

During FY 1996 budget execution, the Office of Governmentwide Policy (OGP) was established, and also began operating under the account. In FY 1997, the appropriations language was broadened to include these policy activities, and the account was retitled “Policy and Operations.”

Also in FY 1996, certain functions of the Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO), previously financed under the Information Technology Fund, were transferred to the account.

DESCRIPTION OF BUDGET ACTIVITIES

Externally, the appropriation is divided into two budget activities, Policy and Operations.

The Policy activity provides for Governmentwide policy, evaluation, and asset management functions associated with real and personal property, supplies, information technology, acquisition support, transportation and travel management, Federal Procurement Data Center, Federal Equipment Data Center, Regulatory Information Service Center, the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, and the Committee Management Secretariat. The Office of Governmentwide Policy, working cooperatively with other agencies, provides the leadership needed to develop and evaluate the implementation of policies designed to achieve the most cost effective solutions for the delivery of administrative services, while reducing regulations and empowering employees.

Operations provides for Federal Supply, Federal Information Center, Property Disposal, General Management and Administration, and Chief Information Officer Programs. These programs include

contracting for transportation and travel services and schedules; utilization of real and personal property by Federal agencies, and the transfer among agencies of excess real and personal property; disposal of surplus real property by sale, exchange, lease, permit, assignment, or transfer, as well as the protection and maintenance of excess and surplus property pending its disposition; appraisal of excess and surplus property, necessary cultural and environmental analyses, reuse planning, and real property utilization surveys; Indian Trust Accounting, and administrative support of Congressional District and Senate State Offices.

Reimbursable work is also performed under the account.

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

Appropriations language as of the 1998 appropriations Act is as follows:

“For expenses authorized by law, not otherwise provided for, for Government-wide policy and oversight activities associated with asset management activities; utilization and donation of surplus personal property; transportation; procurement and supply; Government-wide and internal responsibilities relating to automated data management, telecommunications, information resources management, and related technology activities; utilization survey, deed compliance inspection, appraisal, environmental and cultural analysis, and land use planning functions pertaining to excess and surplus real property; agencywide policy direction; Board of Contract Appeals; accounting, records management, and other support services incident to adjudication of Indian Tribal Claims by the United States Court of Federal Claims; services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; and not to exceed \$5,000 for official reception and representation expenses; \$_____ “

BUDGETARY HISTORY OF APPROPRIATIONS \$(Thousands)

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Estimate To OMB</u>	<u>Presidents Allowance</u>	<u>House Bill</u>	<u>Senate Bill</u>	<u>Appropriations Enacted Amount</u>	<u>P.L.</u>	<u>Date</u>
1995	133,420	133,825	123,020	130,036	130,036	103-329	9/30/94
1996	165,705	165,705	111,629	119,091	119,091	104-52	11/19/95
1997	110,173	110,173	109,091	110,173	110,173	104-208	9/30/96
1998	104,487	104,487	107,487	104,487	107,487	105-61	10/10/97

NOTE: 1995 and 1996 are for Operating Expenses; 1997 and subsequent are for the Policy and Operations appropriation.

FUNDS AVAILABLE, OBLIGATIONS, AND OUTLAYS \$(Thousands)

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Total Available</u>	<u>Obligations During Year</u>	<u>Unobligated Balance</u>	<u>Outlays</u>
1995	130,036	--	130,036	125,810	4,226	129,339

1996	119,091	--	119,091	115,800	3,291	102,222
1997	110,173	8,000 ¹	118,173	115,696	2,477	121,268
1998	107,487					

¹

From Federal Buildings Fund, pursuant to Pub. L. 104-208.

OBLIGATIONS BY BUDGET ACTIVITIES
\$(Thousands)

Budget Activity	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999
Policy (OGP)	--	38,089	43,006		
Operations	125,810	77,711	72,690		
FSS Programs	31,641	21,775	11,828		
FTS Program	46,866	11,516	15,543		
Real Property Disposal	14,416	11,199	12,122		
Chief Information Officer	--	12,940	12,449		
Gen'l Mgmnt and Administration	32,887	20,281	20,748		
Total Obligations	125,810	115,800	115,696		

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) EMPLOYMENT
Direct and Reimbursable

Budget Activity	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999
Policy (OGP)	0	242	261		
Operations	1,249	646	466		
FSS Programs	381	252	124		
FTS Program (FIC)	487 ¹	21	4		
Real Property Disposal	131	113	106		
Chief Information Officer	¹	101	87		
Gen'l Mgmnt and Administration	250	159	145		
Total FTE	1,249	888	727		

¹ For FY 1995, data for the Information Technology Service and Chief Information Officer were reported in total.

POLICY AND OPERATIONS
REIMBURSABLE PROGRAM

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

Services of the kind supported by the direct appropriation are provided to others on a fully reimbursable basis.

AUTHORITY FOR THE PROGRAM

Section 601 of the Economy Act of 1932, as amended, provides basic authority for agencies to perform reimbursable services.

HISTORY OF THE PROGRAM

See discussion under the direct appropriation.

DESCRIPTION OF BUDGET ACTIVITIES

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OBLIGATIONS BY BUDGET ACTIVITIES
\$(Thousands)

Budget Activity	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998	FY 1999
Policy (OGP)	--	1,498	1,181		
Operations	170,654	6,869	6,280		
FSS Programs	632	408	303		

FTS Program	167,939	70	49
Real Property Disposal	2,083	6,391	5,928
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Total Obligations	170,654	8,367	7,461